Drafted by: RMHoover:hb
3/17/81 EXT 20350

Clearances: EUR/CE:TMTNiles
EUR/CE:DKEdminster
EUR/CE/BER:JRDobrinin
EUR:RCEwing
T:Towell

Control No. 8107903

MARCH 23 1981

Dear Mr. Goodling:

Allow me to reply to your letter to Secretary Haig of March 5, 1981 containing your views concerning the maintenance of Rudolph Hess at Spandau Prison.

It should be pointed out at the outset that this expense is borne by the Federal Republic of Germany thru the Berlin Occupation Costs budget and not by any of the four occupying powers.

At the same time, the United States believes, as do the British and French, that Mr. Hess should be released for humanitarian reasons. He is now 86 years old and has been imprisoned for more than 30 years. Over the past decade we have made repeated representations to the Soviet Union to agree to Mr. Hess' release. Each time the Soviet reply has been negative.

It is not possible for us, or even the three Western powers acting together, to free Mr. Hess without Soviet concurrence. The international agreements governing his confinement were signed by all four governments and unanimous agreement is needed to change them.

Despite the fact that we have so far not been successful in obtaining Soviet consent to the release of Mr. Hess, we will continue in the effort.

I hope this information will be of use to you. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard Fairbanks,
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable
William F. Goodling,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY B. Thomas DATE MAR 1 3 19
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLA SI IE'D ☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE [illegible] ☐
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P810058-1432

8107903

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ACTION SLIP SADIXED

S.S CONTROL NUMBER 8107903

unclass
(Attachment Classification)

ACTION ASSIGNED TO: EUR/CE/RK DATE: 3-13
(Action Office Instructions on Reverse)

ACTION REQUESTED

___ STATE TO NSC MEMO
___ STATE TO
___ with Draft reply for signature by _____
___ with Comment or Recommendation

___ DIRECT REPLY
___ provide info copy under cover of State NSC transmittal form

✓ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY H
___ provide comeback copy for _____

___ RECOMMENDATION FOR _____
___ with Memorandum for the President

___ APPROPRIATE HANDLING

___ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CLEAR WITH:

DUE IN S/S BY: 3-18

1981 MAR 13 PM 4 12

REMARKS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
Congressional!

___ S	___ UNA	___ A	___ AF	
___ D	___ S/AR	___ CA	___ ARA	
___ P	___ S/AS	___ EB	___ EA	
___ E	___ S/ES	___ H	___ EUR	
___ T	___ S/MS	✓ HA	___ NEA	
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___ C	___ S/CPR	___ INR	___ AID	
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✓ S/S S	___ S/R	___ PA		
___ TEAM A	___ S/SLG	___ PM		
___ TEAM B	___ D/LOS			
✓ TEAM C	M/CT			
___ TEAM D	___ M/DG			
✓ S/S-I (RF)	___ M/EEO			
	___ M/FLO			
	___ M/MO			

FROM: Betsy Zell (NAME)

S/S-S: ___A 21522 ___B 28338 ✓C 28348 ___D 28062

ATTACH THIS ACTION SLIP TO ANY SUBMISSION TO S/S

0931-0937

8107903

BILL GOODLING
20TH DIST., PENNSYLVANIA

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY:
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY:
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P810 031 006

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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800-632-1811

March 5, 1981

ACTION
is assigned to
EUR

The Honorable Alexander Haig
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am not sure with whom I should register this protest, but if the State Department is the wrong place I would ask that you forward it to the proper authority. My concern is the horrendous cost to keep one prisoner, namely Rudolf Hess, in the Spandau prison.

I understand that the Russians oppose his release simply as a show of strength and determination. I imagine that the Jewish community in our country would like to see him stay there, perhaps, as some kind of symbol. But in these times of tight money I do not see how we can justify doing anything other than releasing him during the period we are responsible for this foolish expenditure of keeping that prison open. I would hope that there would be some way of ending this nonsense promptly.

Sincerely,

Bill

BILL GOODLING
Member of Congress

P.S. I was extremely impressed with your appearance before our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

WFG:jkb

(1)